

high spirit of bipartisanship and put America's trade agreements on the right track by preserving Congress's legislative role; require negotiators to install provisions that will promote workers' rights, and require negotiators to develop trade rules that cannot undercut environmental laws.

We must do whatever we can to recapture the accountability entitled to the American people. The first step in doing that is to defeat fast track. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote down this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### COMMEMORATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Alliance for Community Media. This is a nonprofit organization which was founded in 1976 to provide access to voices and opinions that otherwise would not be heard. The alliance promotes this idea through public education, progressive legislation, regulatory outreach, coalition building, and grassroots organizing.

The alliance's primary goal is to educate and advocate on behalf of the community at large. It works with the Federal Communication Commission, Congress, State legislatures, State regulatory agencies, and other partners to ensure that all people, regardless of race, gender, disability, religion or economic status, have access to available technology to express their opinions, to express their views.

In my congressional district back in Chicago and in the western suburbs, I use extensively this media to reach out to my constituents. We do a program called Hotline 21, where citizens can call in and voice their opinions and get answers to their questions. That is a 30-minute one. We do another one that is an hour where individuals come in and talk about public issues, public policy directors, notions, concepts and ideas. As a matter of fact, the group of community producers, individuals who have their own shows, who have learned how to use technology, how to use cameras, as a matter of fact, they have built up quite a following; and everybody knows that whatever it is that they want to get out, they can get it out through this media.

So I again commend the Alliance for Community Media, congratulate them on their 25th year anniversary; and I also congratulate their executive director, Bunnie Riedel, and her associates for having done an outstanding job and

for having helped to keep alive the notion that as people talk and interact, share notions, ideas and concepts that really binds us closer together as a Nation, it helps to promote the concepts of democracy and it helps to make America a stronger, more open, more productive Nation.

#### SUPPORTING THE BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan trade promotion Act of 2001 and encourage my colleagues in the House to support its passage when we take that crucial vote this week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I come to the floor this evening with a plea for the people of the district I represent. When the House votes Thursday to grant the President Trade Promotion Authority, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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The district I represent sits on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Millions of dollars' worth of goods pass through these waters every day, both from domestic sources and from our trading partners abroad.

The Commonwealth of Virginia is home to four State-owned ports, the Newport News Marine Terminal, the Norfolk International Terminals, the Portsmouth Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County, Virginia. At these ports, importers and exporters find an intricate transportation network, bringing maritime commerce together with road and rail transport. This network allows the goods brought into the ports to reach two-thirds of the American population within 24 hours. If a country or foreign company wants to do business with Americans, they will no doubt deal with the ports of Virginia at some point.

For this reason, the upcoming vote on Presidential Trade Promotion Authority is vital to the people of Virginia's Second District and for all Americans. On Thursday, we will consider granting the President Trade Promotion Authority to negotiate new trade agreements with foreign nations. It is the first step in gaining access to foreign markets for our economy and to open doors to other countries for similar access. This measure has a great impact on the residents of the district I represent because we live where the effects of trade are most evident.

When trade increases, more ships and barges come into these ports, packed with containers and creating the need for more people to handle these goods and ensure their safe transport to communities across the country.

Equally important is the impact that the trade has on the rest of the country. Increasing trade by removing trade and investment barriers benefits all Americans in the checkout line, giving them a wider choice of goods at better prices. Thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs depend on exports, and TPA will open more foreign markets for these products, and American farmers will benefit as more markets open for their goods.

When the lack of free trade agreements makes our wages lower and makes goods cost more, this is a tax. The fact that America is party to only a few trade agreements amounts to an invisible tax on the American people and holds back American prosperity. American exports are burdened by harsh tariffs, making those goods less competitive in foreign markets and hindering the success of American companies. Similarly, the lack of imports gives Americans access to fewer competitive choices, forcing them to pay higher prices at the checkout register.

The free trade agreements that America has entered into have been shown to benefit the economy and workers. Exports to Canada and Mexico have more than doubled since NAFTA was enacted in 1974. Higher exports translate directly into more business for American companies and more jobs for American workers.

The last time trade promotion authority for America was in place was in 1994. Since that time, the United States has not enacted a single free trade agreement with any Nation. This sends a signal to our potential trading partners that when TPA is not in effect, America is either not able to negotiate effective agreements or simply is not willing.

But we can send an equally strong signal to our potential trading partners on Thursday by telling them that we are ready to broker trade deals and we have the tools to do so efficiently. This vote will help us reaffirm America's role as the leader in international trade in order to bring better jobs and more business to America.

Naysayers will argue that Trade Promotion Authority should not be granted until it is guaranteed that we will impose labor and environmental standards on the countries with which we deal. We must remind ourselves that these agreements are with nations as sovereign as our own. We would disapprove of a country who required our Nation's factories to meet environmental standards or pay employees particular wages. Environmental and labor concerns are certainly causes worthy of our efforts, but attaching unnecessarily strict regulations to trade